

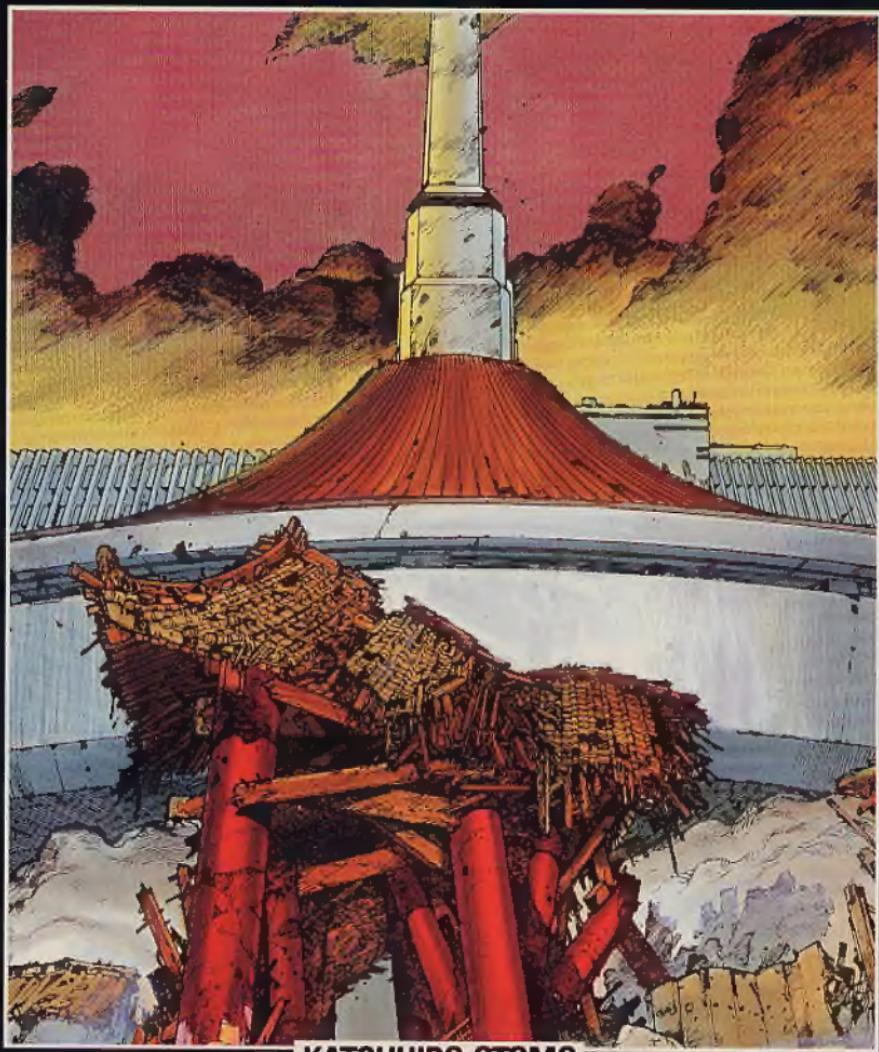
# AKIRA

27

TM



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KATSUHIRO OTOMO

**AKIRA™ Vol 1, No. 23**

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# AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 27

## THE GRAND CONVOCATION

# WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

**2**030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, one-time leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization—led by a man known only as the **Colonel**—and a resistance group whose members include **Key**, **Ryu**, and **Chiyoko**.

The **Colonel** had a number of psychic children under his control. Each is identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**—Numbers 25 and 27—and the blind **Lady Miyako**—Number 19—who once led the resistance and now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo**, once Kaneda's close friend, but now his greatest enemy.

**Tetsuo** lost his arm to a laser blast from the military satellite SOL and has used telekinesis to fabricate for himself a prosthetic left arm.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28—

**Akira**—a quiet boy who was placed in cryogenic sleep forty years ago, when he started the third world war with a mental blast. He was recently reawakened by the jealous and ambitious **Tetsuo**. Shortly thereafter, he responded to an emotional trauma by again devastating the re-created city of Neo-Tokyo. Japan now exists in a state of emergency, with the forces of the army and the resistance scattered, the military's formidable "caretaker robots" patrolling the streets, and new powers and allegiances arising within.

In the western part of the Neo-Tokyo, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. To increase the empire's power, **Tetsuo** uses drugs and training to develop psychic abilities in certain of their subjects. Among their



Kai



Lady Miyako



Kay



Tetsuo

numerous followers is a dapper assistant determined at all costs to destroy **Lady Miyako**, who offers sanctuary to any who come to her eastern shrine.

The Empire is infiltrated by teams of spies from the outside world. All of the spies except **Lieutenant Yamada**—who takes temporary shelter with **Ryu**—are killed. **Ryu** wants to join with and help **Yamada**, but soon after, **Tetsuo** meets the pair and reveals that **Yamada** has come to kill **Akira**. The spy decides to separate from his persistent would-be ally and go his own way.

The **Colonel** is determined to kill **Tetsuo** to atone for bringing about what he believes could become another **Akira**. At this same time, **Tetsuo** is trying to master his own weaknesses and his powers, so that he might control Akira's awesome might. Meanwhile, **Lady Miyako** and her psychically gifted monks are caring for **Masaru** and **Kiyoko**, who are sick with withdrawal from the drug which augments and channels mental powers. They await the return of **Kaneda** and his friend **Kay** and **Chiyoko**—both of whom were wounded in battle with Tetsuo's follow-

ers. **Lady Miyako** is particularly concerned about **Kay**, because although **Kay** lacks native telepathic abilities, the girl is a powerful medium for the talents of others.

Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists assembles. They pool their knowledge of the **Akira** project, code-named **Juvenile A**. Their data indicates that the effect of Akira's power is like that of the Big Bang and that the most recent blast (which was one of Tetsuo's) lacked the scope and dimension of the ones **Akira** caused.

The scientists are agast when they learn that the world's armies have amassed an **Akira Assassination Corps**. They are even more upset by the knowledge that the soldiers are sure to be slaughtered by the inconceivable might of their enemy. Almost as if in confirmation of this, **Tetsuo** decides to pay a visit to his "fan club." During a flight exercise, the boy casually destroys a plane, killing the pilot. Then he taunts the scientists of **Juvenile A** for their limited ideas and aspirations before disappearing in a burst of destructive telekinetic energy.



Kaori



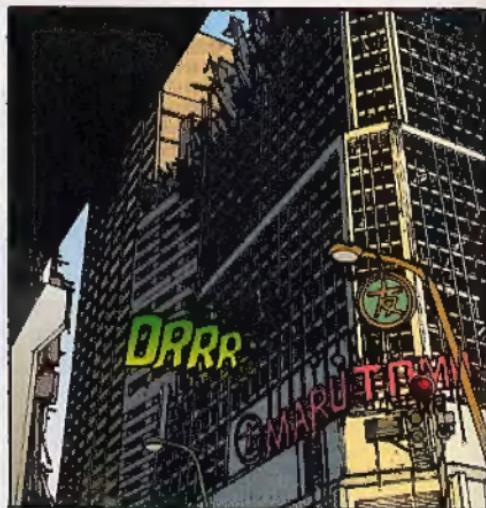
Akira



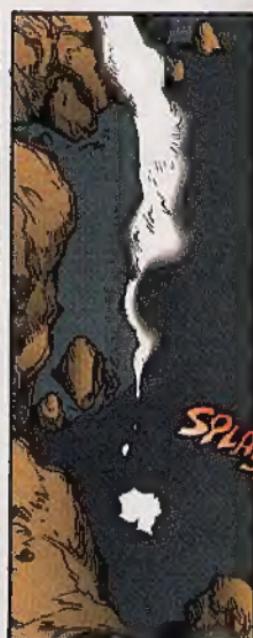
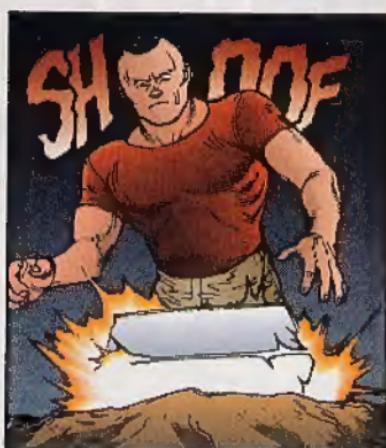
The Colonel

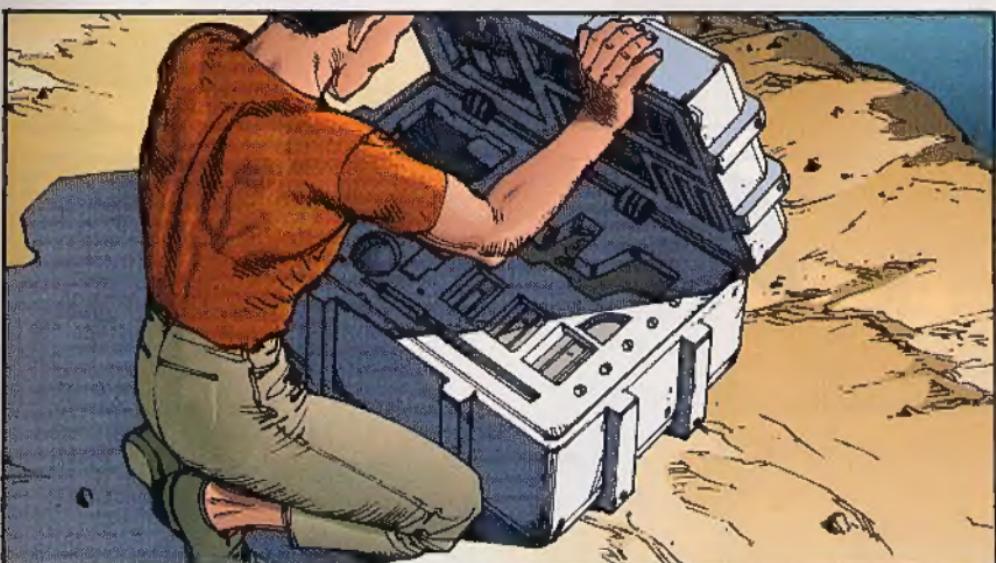


Kaneda





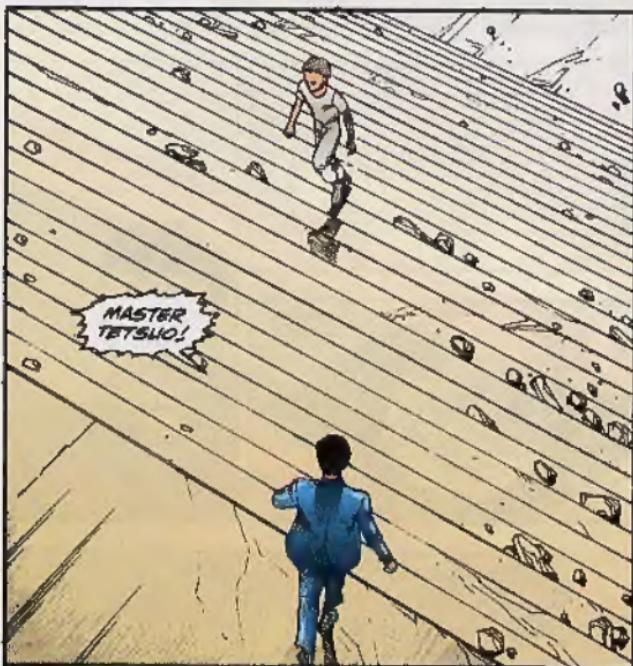




HUH?



MASTER TETSUO!



PLEASE... GRANT  
ME AN AUDIENCE.  
I HAVE  
URGENT NEWS.

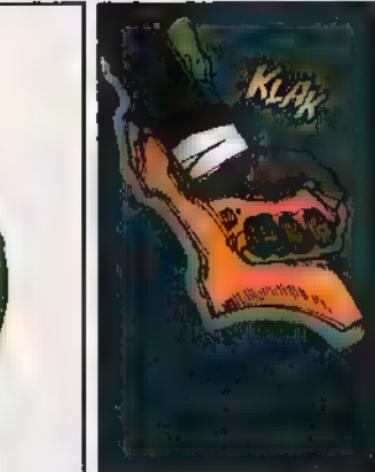
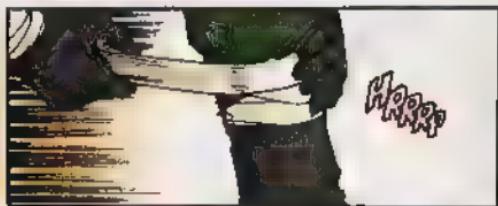
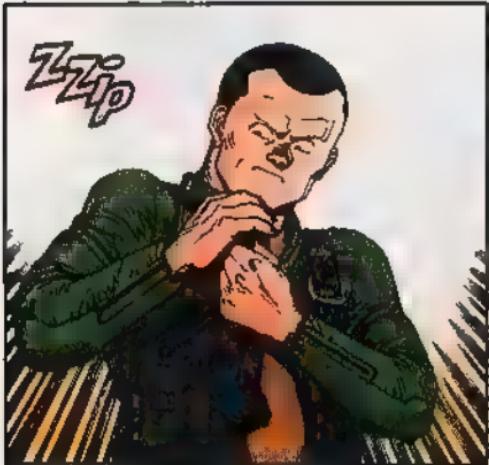


THANK YOU,  
MASTER!

SO, REPORT.  
YOU CAUGHT  
ME IN A  
GOOD MOOD.



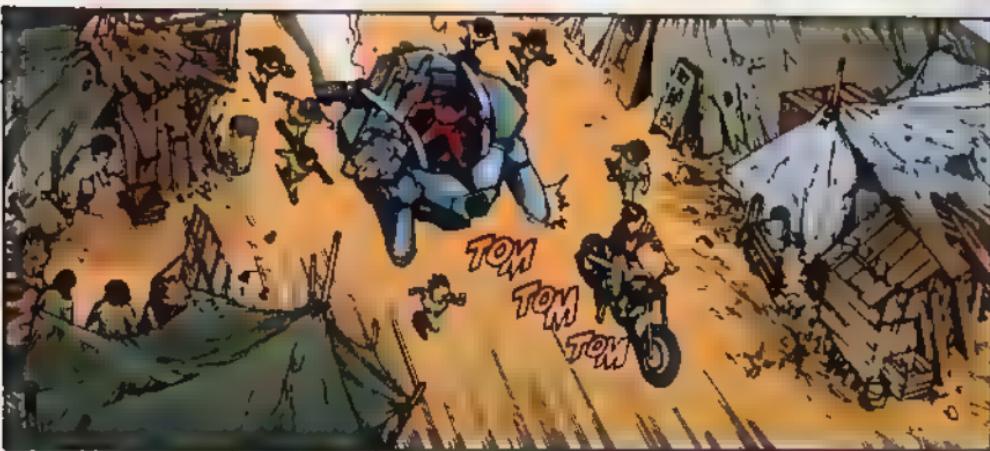
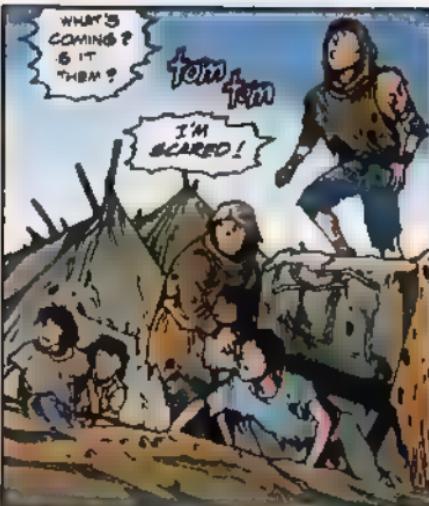












KAY?!





WHAT'S  
HAPPENING?  
WILL SHE  
BE OKAY?

LADY  
MIYAKO  
IS HEALING  
HER

NOW  
BE  
SILENT

UHMM.

DON'T WORRY  
ONLY MINOR  
BLOOD VESSELS  
WERE RUPTURED

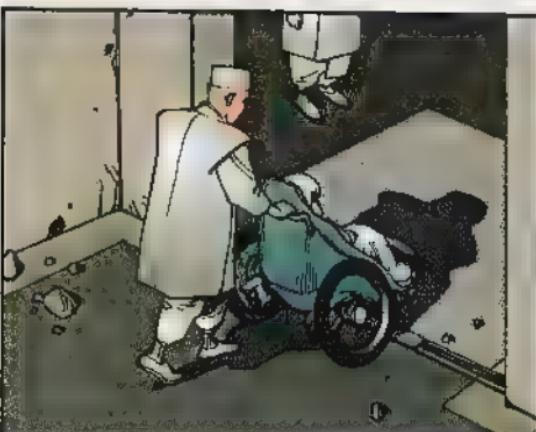
REALLY?!

IT WILL TAKE  
SOME TIME FOR  
THE BLOOD IN  
THE VENTRICLES  
OF HER BRAIN  
TO BE RE  
ABSORBED...

BUT  
SHE'LL BE  
FINE

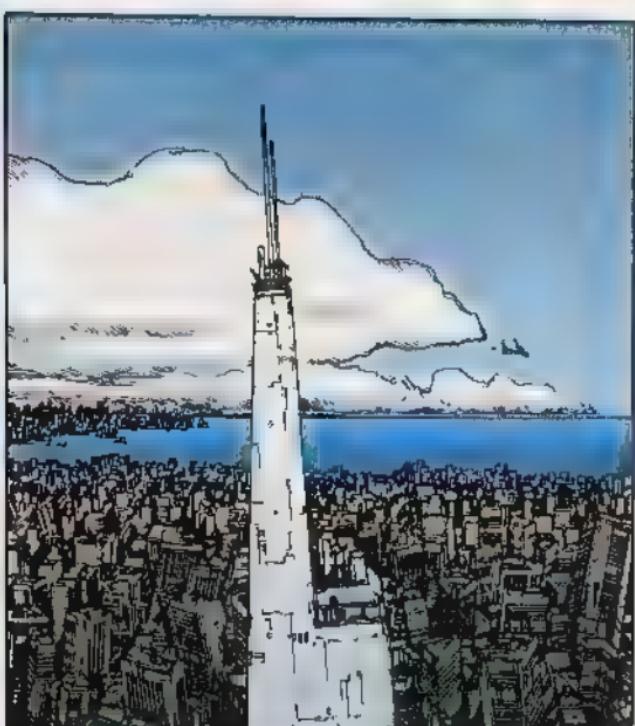
KAY...



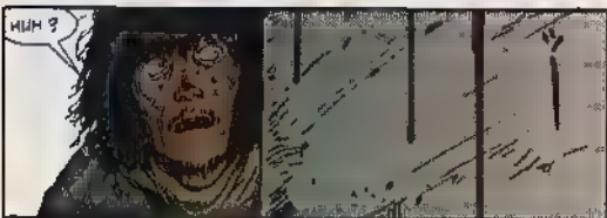


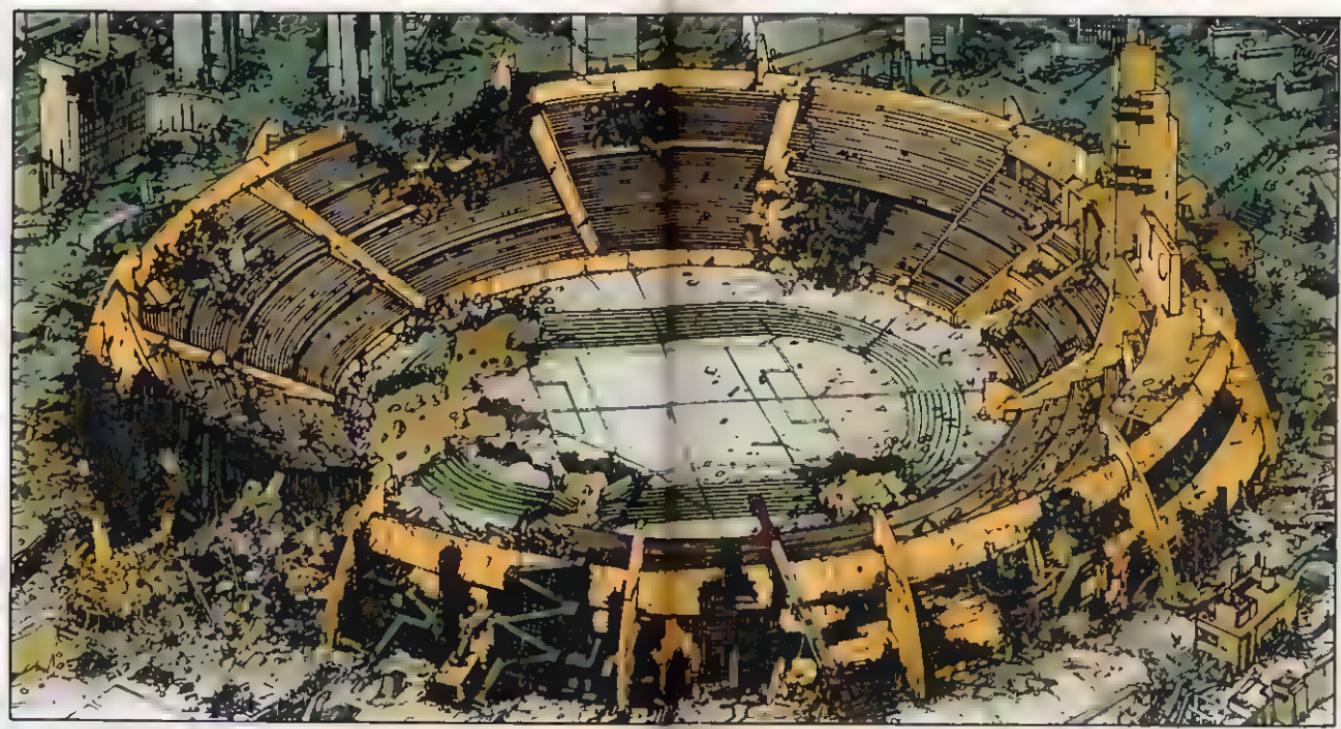












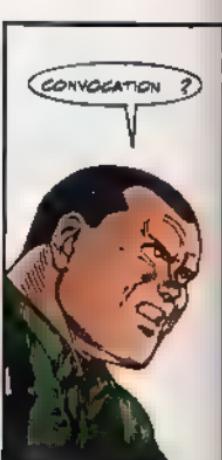
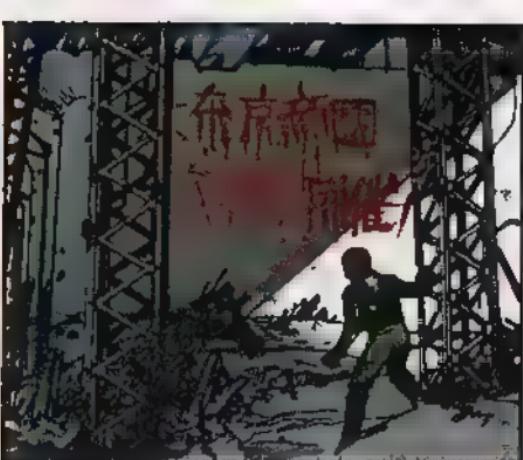


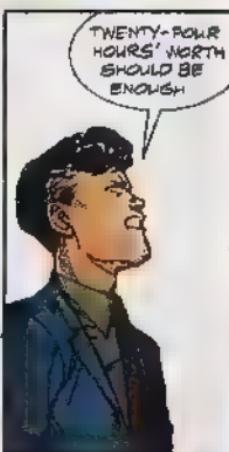
DON'T BE  
MISLED  
BY OUR OLD  
ENEMY,  
MIYAKO! I

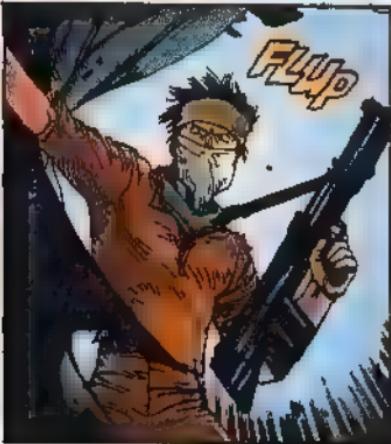
NOW IS  
THE TIME  
FOR US TO  
UNITE --

--UNDER THE  
LEADERSHIP OF  
OUR GREAT LORD  
AKIRA.

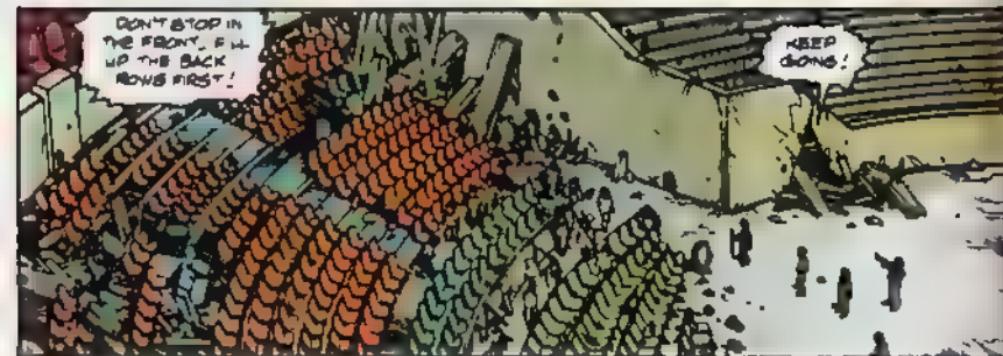














LET'S HEAR  
IT FOR LORD  
AKIRA!

--HOORAY!  
HIP - HIP -  
BANZAI!

AKIRA

28



BANZAI!

KEEP  
BACK,  
YOU...

BLESS  
ME, LORD  
AKIRA.



GET YOUR  
BLESSINGS  
INSIDE!

LORD  
AKIRA!

BACK  
OFF!



WORLD  
AKIRA!

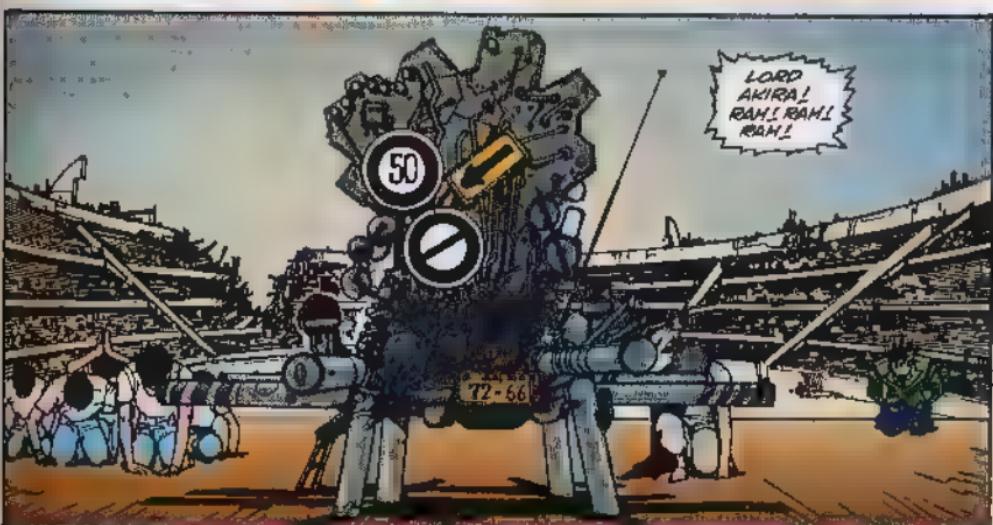
HOORAY!  
BANZA!

HERE  
HE COMES!

YAY!  
HOORAY!









I DEEPLY  
REGRET THIS  
INCIDENT

?

ORDINARILY MY MEN ARE HELD TO THE  
HIGHEST STANDARDS REGARDING  
SHIP'S SECURITY DURING MANEUVERS,  
BUT IN THIS CASE...

BUT  
MR. MOCK  
S--!

ON A CARRIER THIS LARGE  
AND COMPLEX, ONCE THE  
ACCIDENT ON THE FLIGHT  
DECK HAD OCCURRED...

...IT MUST HAVE  
CAUSED SOME KIND  
OF OVERALL DAMAGE  
TO THE ELECTRICAL  
SYSTEMS WHICH IN  
TURN LED TO THE  
EXPLOSION IN YOUR  
LAB

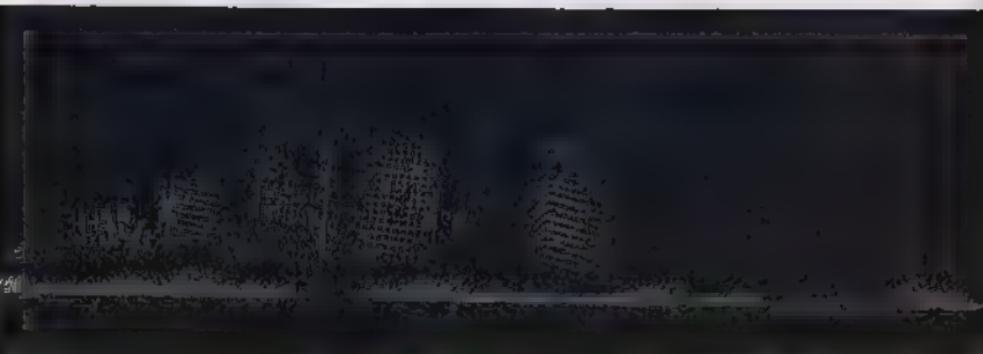
YOU'RE WRONG,  
ADMIRAL... DIDN'T  
YOU READ OUR  
REPORT?

WHEN YOU'RE SEEING THINGS MORE  
CLEARLY, I'M SURE YOU'LL REALIZE IT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO HAVE  
SLIPPED ABOARD WITHOUT OUR RADAR  
DETECTING HIM!

NOW NOW... YOU'VE  
ALL BEEN UNDER A  
GREAT DEAL OF  
STRESS.



SHFF SHFF





GET YOUR FOOD HERE!  
GOOD, HOT FOOD HERE,  
FOR EVERYONE!

PLAY  
SOME DANCE  
MUSIC!

HE  
HEALED  
OUR PAIN!

THEN WE SAW A LIGHT!

HE SHOWED  
THE WAY!

EKKO!

GIVE  
IT UP,  
YOU  
DORK!

WOO-OO-OO-OOH BECAUSE  
HE IS...

SING PRAISE  
TO MIGHTY  
LORD AKIRA!

LORD  
AKIRA!

DROP DEAD!

BANZA!

HOORAY!

BOO!

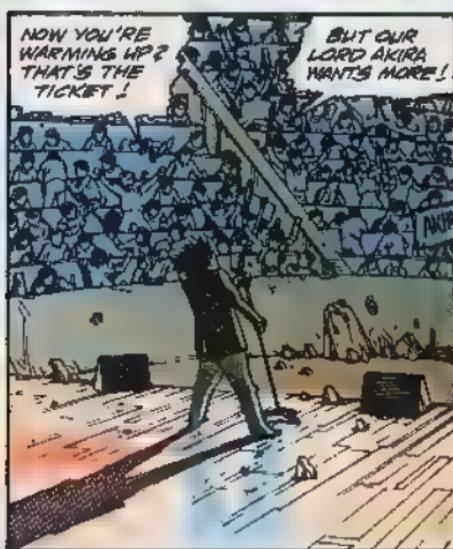
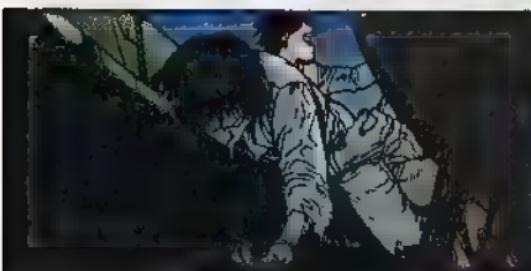
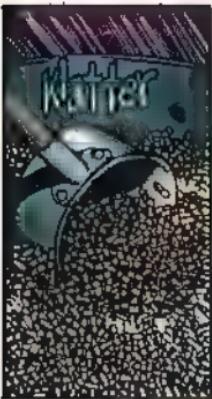
OVER  
HERE!

YAAAAY!

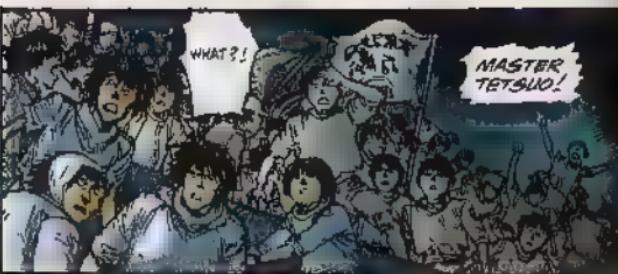
OUR  
GREAT  
LORD!

AKIRA!

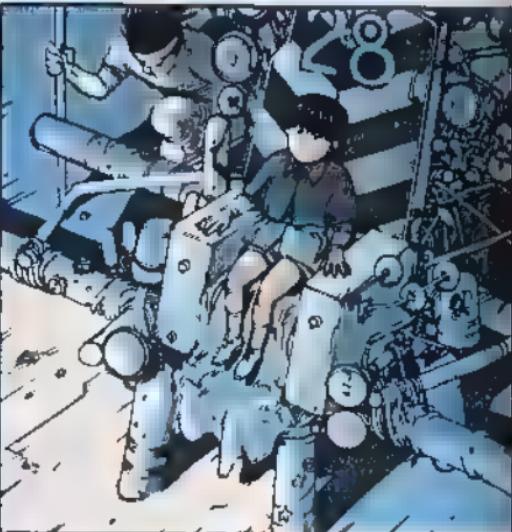
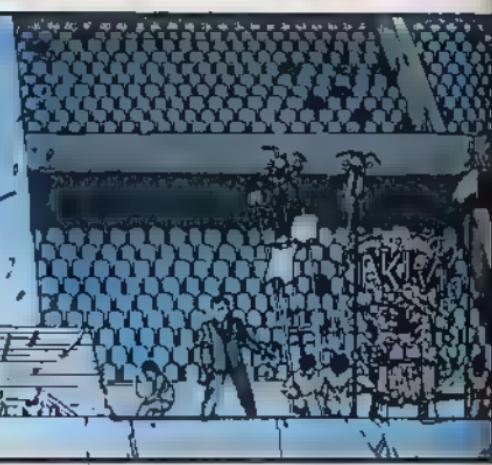










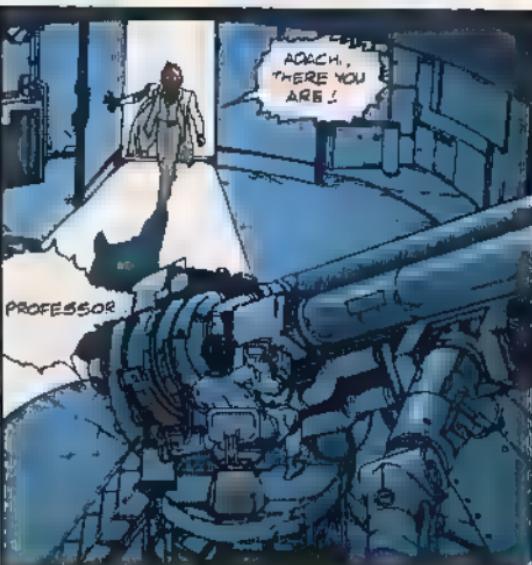
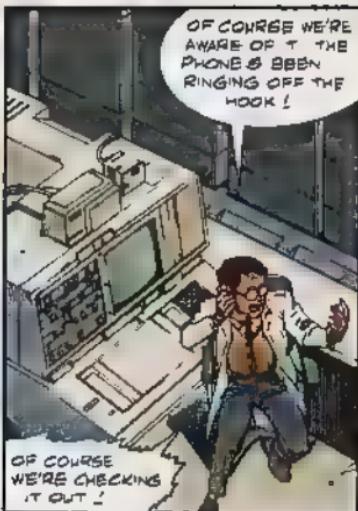


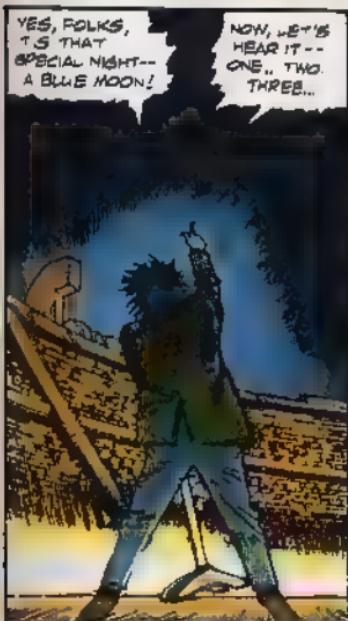


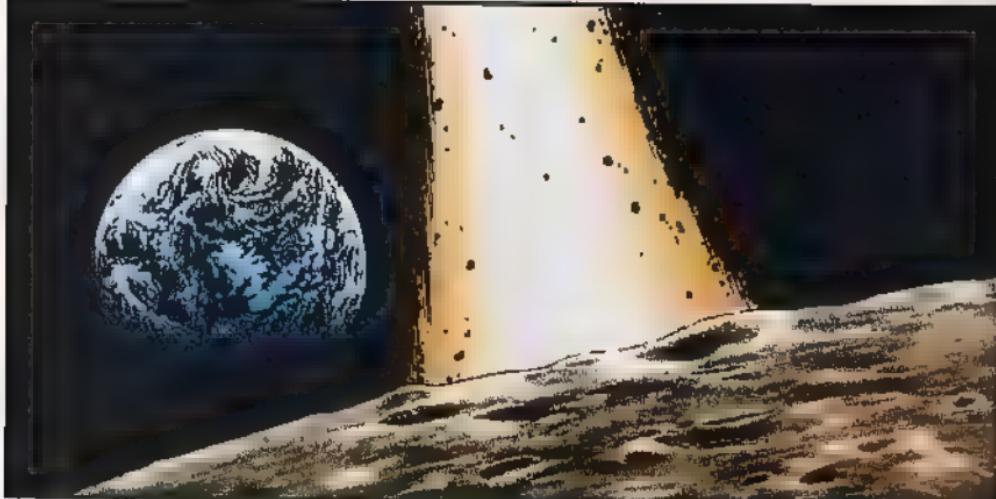


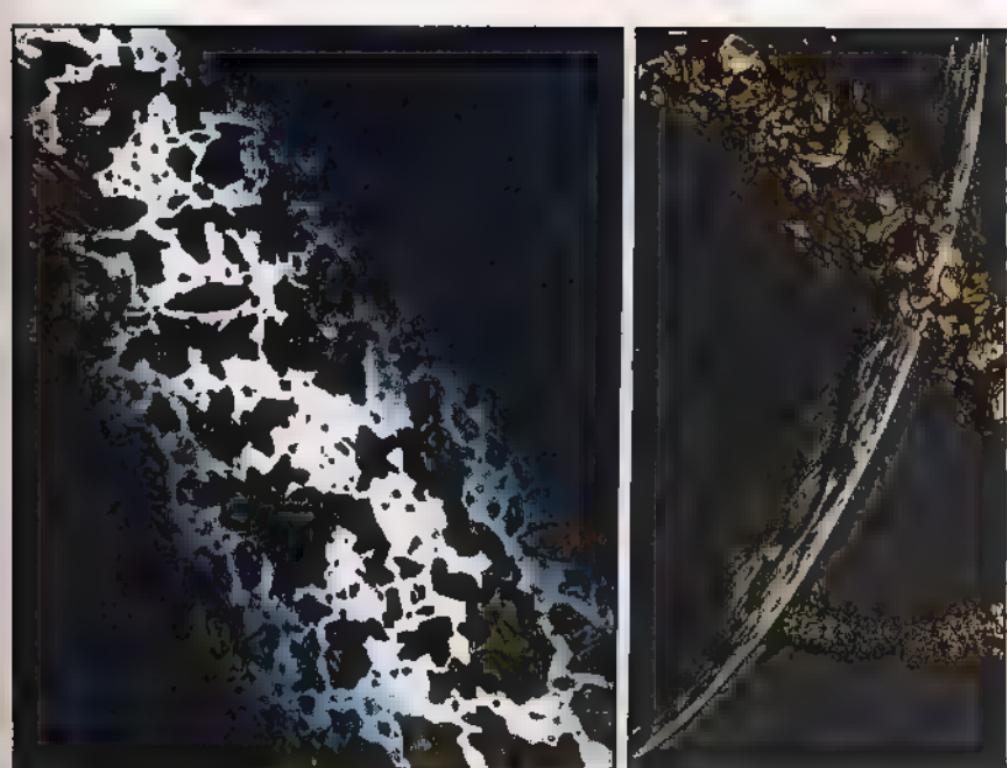


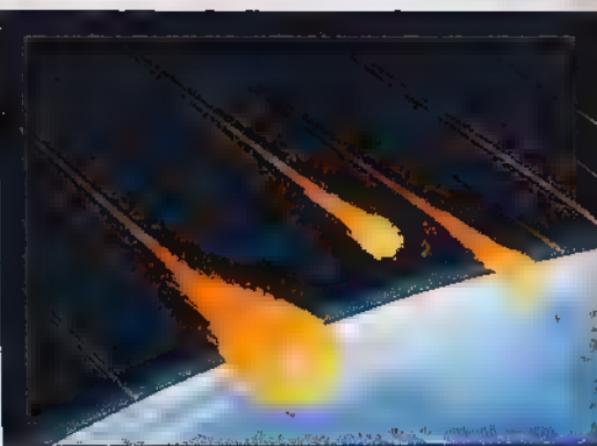
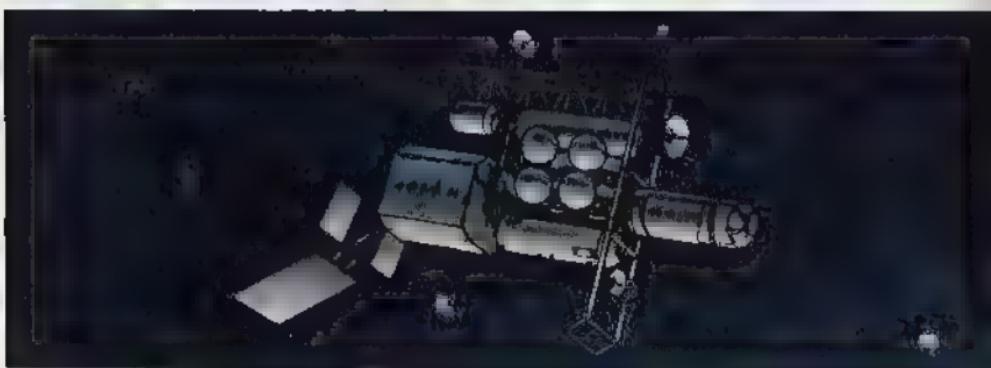
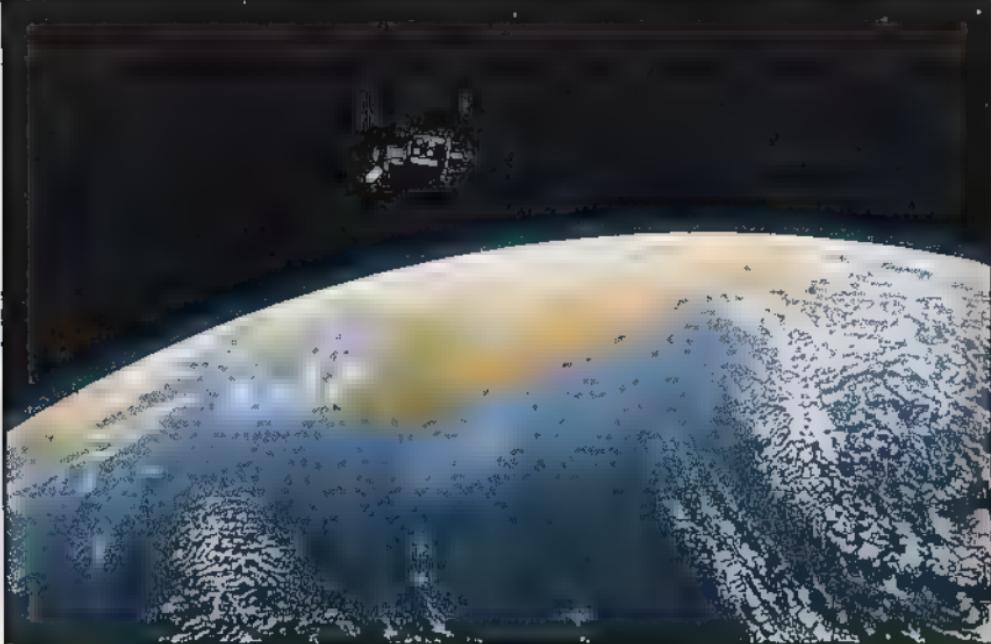




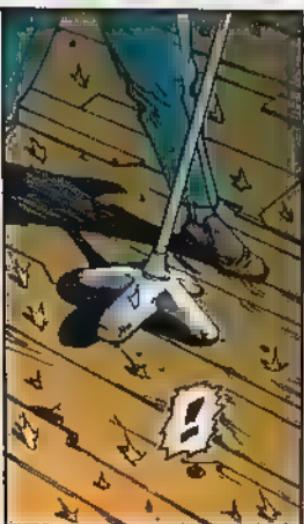


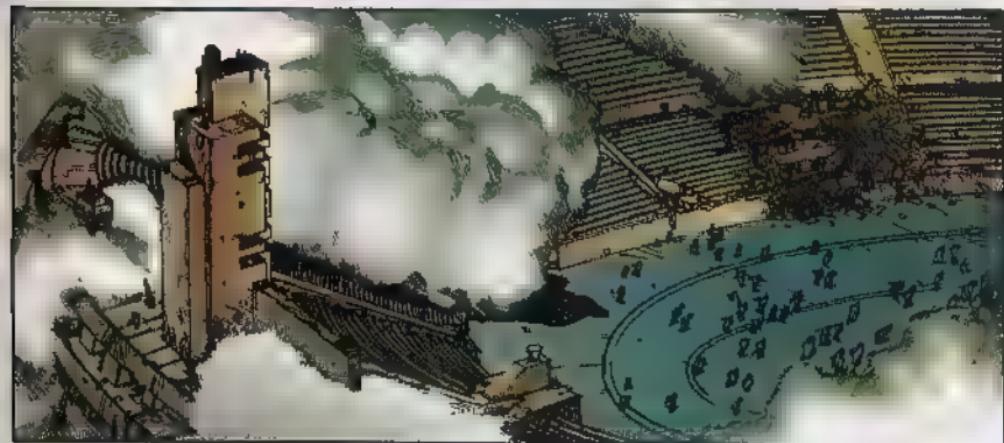
















NEXT ISSUE: SWEPT AWAY



## OTOMO VISITS NEW YORK

Katsuhiro Otomo conducted his first ever book signing at **Forbidden Planet**, New York on October 20, 1990. He signed comics, movie cels, posters, and other *Akira*-related materials for a half an hour.

Otomo was in town for the New York premiere of **Akira** the animated movie, and also met with the Epic staff to discuss current **Akira** work and plans for possible future collaborations. Above, Otomo meets with Jo Duffy, the writer of the English adaptation of **Akira**.

### AKIRA: the movie AN UPDATE

Since its U.S. release over a year ago, **Akira** has enjoyed success beyond all anticipation at box offices across the country. Though its first run ended last summer in most cities, **Akira** will be returning to New York in March as part of a Japanese film festival at the **Film Forum**, where it set a theater record for the number of weeks held over last fall.

Meanwhile, in response to overwhelming public demand, **Streamline Pictures** released the English-speaking version of **Akira** on video tape on February 12 of this year. The tape will not be available in video stores, but may be obtained directly through comic book stores or mail order. Information about the video tape and animation cels is available from **STREAMLINE PICTURES, P.O. BOX 691418, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069.**

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**JO DUFFY**

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**STEVE OLIFF**

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letterer

**POLLY WATSON**

assistant editor

**MAINE JAVINS**

managing editor

**MARC McLAURIN**

editor

**CARL POTTS**

executive editor

T

The Great Tokyo Empire under Emperor Akira plans a grand convocation, a festive gala to be attended by one and all — for there's plenty to celebrate in Neo-Tokyo this day. Starvation in the ruins. The winds of war between the forces of the Emperor and Lady Miyako. The threat of a super power attack with bio-chemical weapons. And Tetsuo toying with the very fabric of the cosmos itself. Rejoice, indeed . . . for tomorrow may be even worse.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA

